

# Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events!

## Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



*Pine Siskin*

### Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Howard Luers

Amber Edwards

**October Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

### Saturday October 6

**10am Autumn in the Swamp!** Fall is a great time to visit the Dune swamps... no mosquitoes! Tag along with the naturalist as we explore the Dune wetlands on this easy, hour stroll. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

**2pm Scatology...** is the study of what!? Scoot your behinds to the Nature Center for a fun look at the science of animal poop! We'll be playing a game with fun prizes! Bring the kids! BB

### Sunday October 7

**8:30am Lake Front Birding.** We'll hope for north winds and check out some shoreline habitat for migrating birds and other wildlife this morning. Meet at the Beach Pavilion. Bring binoculars if you have them, or borrow a pair of ours. Total time about 1 hour. BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with cardinals, chickadees and more! AE

### Friday October 12

**7pm Fun Stories, Songs, and Sing Along!**

Join us as we kick start the NWI Storytelling Festival with some fun songs and stories at the Campground Shelter. Great program for the kids!

### Saturday October 13

#### **Indiana Dunes Camping Extravaganza!**

*Join us for a weekend of fun! The annual Kids Fall Funfest occurs Saturday and Sunday at the Wilson Shelter from 12pm to 4pm. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday in the Nature Center as well!*

#### **10:30am-3pm NWI Storytelling Festival.**

Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions going on throughout the day. Check the schedule in the Nature Center for specific sessions.

### Saturday October 7 (cont'd)

**12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest!** Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter creating crafts and experiencing the season during this popular annual event! Stop by the Friends of Indiana Dunes welcome booth to pick up your \$1.00 passport that will guide you to all stops. Get your passport stamped at each station and use it to enter a raffle for unique prizes at the end of the day.

#### **Activities include:**

Leaf Pressing  
Tree Cookie Necklaces  
Native American Foods  
Prescribed Fire  
Smokey Bear  
Migration Madness  
Animal Furs  
Beaver Business!



Hayrides  
Songs of the Pioneers (Sat only)  
And More!

**3pm Songs of the Pioneers!** Spend an hour with Les Gustafson Zook, 2001 international autoharp champion of the world, as he presents his *Songs of the Pioneers*. The *Songs of the Pioneers* presentation is a fun, interactive and educational way to expose children (and adults) to the songs pioneers were singing as they traveled west. Les brings a car load of acoustic musical instruments and introduces each instrument with some of its history and ties the whole presentation together with pioneer experiences. This special cultural arts program takes place at the Wilson Shelter. Join us!

**6pm Campfire Fun!** Join us at the Campground Shelter for some fun around the campfire! Games, stories, and other activities will help end an already fun day in the park! All the while, we'll be cooking some homemade applesauce over the campfire. Great family fun! BB

**7pm Ghost Stories!** An encore performance from the NWI Storytellers! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for some spooky stories that are sure to thrill you (and may also chill you)!

### Sunday, October 14

**12pm-3m NWI Storytelling Festival.** Come to the Nature Center to watch some of Indiana's best storytellers weave their magic! Special sessions going on throughout the afternoon. Check the schedule in the Nature Center for specific sessions

**12pm-4pm Kids Fall Funfest!** Spend the afternoon with the kids meandering shelter to shelter creating crafts and experiencing the season during this popular annual event! Stop by the Friends of Indiana Dunes welcome booth to pick up your \$1.00 passport that will guide you to all stops. Get your passport stamped at each station and use it to enter a raffle for unique prizes at the end of the day

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### Saturday, October 20

**10am Sassafras Saunter.** By this time, the fall colors should be at peak. Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll looking at the colors of fall. We'll check out sassafras, oak, black gum, and some of the other bright colors! BB

**2pm Geocaching Jaunt.** Join a Naturalist at the Nature Center for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Great family fun and prizes for the kids AE

### Sunday, October 21

**8:30am Waterfowl Watch.** If conditions are right, we'll set up for a look at the ducks, loons, and grebes of Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Beach Pavilion, from where we'll set up our scopes to view these amazing divers. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Total time, about 1 hour. BB

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get up close encounters with cardinals, chickadees and more! AE

**2pm Leaf Art.** Create some nature art to keep as memory of your Indiana Dunes stay. Meet at the Nature Center as we look at some of the fall colors, and create some leaf rubbings to take home. Great kids program! AE

### Saturday, October 27

#### **"Howl"oween at Indiana Dunes!**

*Join us for a weekend of spooktacular programs!*

*Decorate your campsite for prizes, go trick or treating, and more!*

**10am Whooo Goes There!** Swoop into the Nature Center for a fun look at these spooky stealth pilots of the night! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 45 minute program. BB

**1pm Pumpkin Carving!** Can you carve the best pumpkin?! Join the Campstore crew and carve up your best pumpkin. Put them out to accent your site for the campsite decorating contest! There is a small fee per pumpkin. Meet at the Campstore.



## **Saturday October 27 (cont'd)**

**4:30pm-5:30pm Trick or Treating!** Put on your best costume and take part in the Indiana Dunes trick or treating. Please note campground vehicle traffic will be limited during this hour.

**5pm Campsite Decorating Contest!** Judging for this year's best campsite will occur between 5-7pm. Winners will be posted at the Campground Gate that evening. Win free weekend camping passes and more!

### **6pm "Howl"oween in the Pet Cemetery!**

Bring a coat and a friend to hold onto for an evening stroll into what may be the spookiest part of the park! Meet at the Campground Gate, from where we'll head into the dark forest in search of lost pets and lost souls! Children under 12 **must** bring a parent. Some short off trail hiking and a flashlight recommended for the walk back. Join us, if you dare! BB

## **Sunday, October 28**

**9am Frost on the Pumpkin Walk.** Meet the Naturalist for an early morning search for ghouls, goblins, or plain ole' birds that may be out and about this new day. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Campground Gate. BB

**11am Bat Chat!!** Dive into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look (and craft!) exploring the bats of Indiana Dunes. We'll finish off with a fun craft that you can take home with you! Join us! AE

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at  
[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)

Make a campsite or shelter reservations at  
1-866-622-6746 or  
on-line at [www.CAMP.IN.gov](http://www.CAMP.IN.gov)

## **Friends of Indiana Dunes**

Many people enjoy the multitude of public programs that the Indiana Dunes State Park offers every year. Most park visitors don't realize that many of these great events and activities would not be possible if it were not for the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

The Friends of Indiana Dunes is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "enhance and foster understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Indiana Dunes through financial and volunteer support of the state and national parks."

If you are interested in the Friends of Indiana Dunes, please ask for information at the Nature Center. Information and membership forms can also be found online by visiting their website at <http://www.duneland.com/friends.htm>.

**FRIENDS OF**  
*Indiana Dunes*